

Maintenance Dredging of Swinomish Channel Completed

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SEATTLE – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District announces that maintenance dredging in the Swinomish Channel has been completed.

American Construction Co. of Tacoma, Wash. removed about 83,000 cubic yards of material via clamshell dredging method from the Federal channel to ensure safe navigation. Federal maintenance in this area had not been done previously since 2003. The clean, sandy dredged materials were disposed in the Rosario Strait open water disposal site.

“The maintenance dredging was accomplished, despite brutal weather conditions,” said Hiram Arden, Navigation Project Manager, Seattle District. “Even given some extreme winter weather – winds, tides, snow and ice conditions, we completed this very important contract work.”

Sediment sampling and characterization is proposed and necessary for new programmatic coordination documents to address future dredging activities between the years of 2010 through 2017.

One of the Seattle District’s primary missions is to maintain the navigation channels and harbors in the Pacific Northwest. Maintenance and navigation dredging is done frequently in harbor

areas, ports and marinas. A significant component of Washington's economy depends on safe navigation and commerce, which in turn depends on dredging the federal channels, such as the Swinomish Channel.